(b) what are the details of complaints the Indian Oil Corpn. received at Parliament House Reception Counter from MPs for the delay in Indane Gas supply during the current Budget Session ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Oil industry is running a Consumer Service Cell during Parliament Sessions for the benefit of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Normally requests are received by the Cell for refills only from Member of Parliament.

Wastage of Petroleum Products

1014. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as much as 25 per cent of the petroleum products are being wasted or sub-optimally used; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any strategy to harness the petroleum resources to the optimum and to give a thrust to the entire field of oil-conservation has been or is being worked out, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Some Working Groups have estimated the potential of conservation of energy including petroleum products to be 20% to 30% in the major sectors.

(b) Various measures under implementation to promote conservation of petroleum products include mass awareness campaigns, imparting of education and training to the target groups of oil users, promoting use of fuel-efficient devices/equipment and upgraded lubricants, initiating action in the newly identified areas, encouraging use of alternative fuels and reducing wastages as well as wasteful use of petroleum products. Increasing the effectiveness of these measures in a continuing effort.

Investment on Flaring of Gas

1015. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC proposes to invest nearly Rs. 2000 crores to cap flaring of gas at the Bombay High;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been serious apprehensions on the implementation of the project; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) ONGC are implementing a Gas Flaring Reduction Project in the West Offshore region, which is estimated to cost approx. Rs. 7500 crores.

(c) to (d) There is no cause for apprehension about completion of the Projects on schedule subject to financing arrangement materialising in time.

Bottlenecks in the Commissioning of Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project

1016. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the main bottleneck in the commissioning of Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project for which communications have been received on 14th August, 1991, 11th December, 1991 and 18th January, 1992 is the revision revalidation of gas price and initiation of the work for laying the gas pipeline and renovation of the gas wells etc. pending revalidation gas price;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether any decision to convene a meeting at Ministry level between ONGC, GAIL, RSEB and State Government to finalise all the pending issues regarding

supply of gas to 3 MW Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project likely to be held in April-May, 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Rajasthan State Electricity Board have not signed the Gas Supply Contract, because of which consequential activities such as laying of gas pipelines, etc., have not been undertaken.

Hiring of Lawyers

1017. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details relating to hiring of lawyers for the legal case being fought by M/s Gas Authority of India Limited against the Consortium led by M/s Spie Capag in France; and

(b) what are the details of the contract which has been entered into by M/s Gas Authority of India Limited with the lawyers ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) In May, 1990, Gas Authority of India Ltd. in consultation with the Indian Embassy at Paris, engaged M/s. Clifford Chance an International Law firm to contest the case against the Consortium led by M/s. Spie Capag in France.

Awarding of Supply Order to Engineers India Ltd.

1018. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) What are the jobs undertaken by the Engineers India Limited;

(b) whether it is a fact that heavy purchase of supply has been awarded to this company in Rourkela modernisation project even though it does not produce a single nut or pin;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Engineers India Limited would also work as a middle supplying agent; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not awarding the job to a manufacturing company or trading company ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Engineers India Limited (EIL) provides engineering consultancy services and project management services in respect of petroleum, chemicals, petrochemicals, ocean engineering and other related industrial projects etc.

(b) According to the EIL, they have not been awarded any work in Rourkela modernisation project.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

LPG Connections on the Recommendations of Members of Parliament

1019. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG (domestic) connections sanctioned on M.Ps. recommendations are handed over by oil companies to some other persons who claim to be personal Assistants of some other M.Ps.;

(b) whether Government have received complaints that LPG (domestic) connections sanctioned on the recommendations of M.Ps. in the 1st week of December, 1991 vide letter No. 79/BPC dated 3-12-92 and other similar gas connections sanctioned on M.Ps. recommendations and despatched on 16-12-91 vide No. 4248—4253 were handed over to some unauthorised persons;

(c) whether Government are aware that a gang is operating with the connivance of officers of oil companies, especially in the BPC, to sell these connections in black market;